

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all previous versions and listings of claims:

Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 are canceled.

3. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 19 wherein:

one of the [said] valve elements is an intake valve for permitting flow from an intake port to a pump, and the other of the [said] valve elements is an outlet valve for permitting flow from the [said] pump to an outlet port; and

the dimensions of the [said] first and second valve compartments are selected to limit the movement of the [said] first and second valve elements when the [said] pump is moving a fluid flow from the [said] inlet port through the [said] pump to the [said] outlet port, such that at least one of the [said] valve elements is always in the closed position.

4. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 3 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise an elastomeric material.

5. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise ethylene propylene diene terpolymer.

6. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise a fluoroelastomer.

7. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise a perfluoroelastomer.

8. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise silicone.

9. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 4 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements have a hardness from about 40 Durometer to about 90 Durometer,
Shore A.

10. (Currently Amended): A pump assembly, comprising:

a pump chamber having a first recess formed therein;

a pump head ~~having~~ housing having a second recess formed therein, the [said] second recess cooperating with the [said] first recess to define a first valve compartment including a first valve pocket and an opposed first valve seat ; and

a flexible first valve element having a selected first thickness disposed between the [said] first and second recesses and adapted to move through a stroke length between a closed position against the [said] first valve seat which prevents fluid flow and an open position away from the [said] first valve seat which permits fluid flow;

wherein the dimensions of the [said] first valve compartment are selected to limit the stroke length of the [said] first valve element to less than about 1.6 times the [said] first thickness.

11. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 10 further comprising:

a third recess formed in the [said] pump chamber;

a fourth recess formed in the [said] pump head, the [said] fourth recess cooperating with the [said] third recess to define a second valve compartment including a second valve pocket and an opposed second valve seat; and

a flexible second valve element having a selected second thickness disposed

between the [said] third and fourth recesses, and adapted to move between a closed position against the [said] second valve seat which prevents fluid flow and an open position away from the [said] second valve seat which permits fluid flow in a second direction;

wherein the dimensions of the [said] second valve compartment are selected to limit the stroke length of the [said] second valve element to less than about 1.6 times the [said] second thickness.

12. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 11 wherein the dimensions of the [said] first and second valve compartments are selected such that the stroke lengths of the [said] first and second valve elements are from about 0.19 times the thickness of the respective valve element to about 0.93 times the first and second thicknesses, respectively of the respective valve element.

13. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 12 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise an elastomeric material.

14. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 12 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise ethylene propylene diene terpolymer.

15. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 12 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise a fluoroelastomer.

16. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 12 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise a perfluoroelastomer.

17. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 12 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements comprise silicone.

18. (Currently Amended): The valve assembly of claim 12 wherein the [said] first and second valve elements have a hardness from about 40 Durometer to about 90 Durometer, shore A.

19. (New) A valve assembly for a pump, comprising:
a pump chamber having a first recess formed therein;
a pump head having a second recess formed therein, the second recess

cooperating with the first recess to define a first valve compartment having a predetermined depth between a first valve pocket in the first recess and an opposed first valve seat in the second recess; and

a flexible valve element having a predetermined thickness and positioned between the first and second recesses and adapted to flexibly travel between a closed position against the valve seat that prevents fluid flow past the first valve seat and an open position against the first valve compartment that permits fluid flow past the valve seat, the distance of travel of the valve element between its closed position against the first valve seat and its open position away from the valve seat being less than the thickness of the valve element to thereby eliminate overtravel by the valve element as it flexes between the closed and open positions.

20. (New) The valve assembly of claim 19, further comprising:

a third recess formed in the pump chamber;

a fourth recess formed in the pump head, the fourth recess cooperating with the third recess to define a second valve compartment having a predetermined depth between a first valve pocket in the third recess and an opposed second valve seat in the fourth recess; and

a flexible second valve element having a predetermined thickness and positioned between the third and fourth recesses and adapted to flexibly travel between a

closed position against the second valve seat that prevents fluid flow past the second valve seat and an open position against the second valve compartment that permits fluid flow past the second valve seat, the distance of travel of the second valve element between its closed position against the first valve seat and its open position away from the valve seat being less than the thickness of the valve element to thereby eliminate overtravel by the valve element as it flexes between the closed and open positions.